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cesses he describes, it is rendered still more so by the clearness and simplicity of the directions, and by the thoroughly sensible hygienic advice accompanying it. Part II consists of the introductory matter of the old Key, very greatly amplified, and forms a kind of "Closet Ornithology" as distinguished from a "Field Ornithology." In it are explained the technical terms in use among ornithologists; and the structure of the external and internal parts, including nerves, muscles, lungs and lung-sacs, and digestive organs, as well as osteology, is extensively entered into. This part contains also a treatise on oölogy, and concludes with artificial keys to the orders and families, and a tabular view of the classification. Part III, the main body of the work, describes all the species and subspecies of North American birds at present known, defines the genera, and characterizes the families and higher groups. The descriptions are much more elaborate than those of the old Key, but the amplification has been made solely with the aim of facilitating the identification of specimens. Although some descriptions are taken from the author's Birds of the Colorado Valley, Birds of the Northwest, etc., by far the greater part of the matter here contained is new. Scarcely any of the older work is left unaltered. The references to authorities, which, in the old Key, closed the descriptive paragraphs, are omitted, and the space thus gained is utilized for references to the nest and eggs, song, flight, migratory or other habits of the species, so as to epitomize the life-history. Geographical distribution is prominently and thoroughly treated, and considerable attention has been paid to descriptions of the plumage of females and of young birds. The specific names are marked for accent. Part IV is short, but is a valuable synopsis of the known fossil birds of North America, forty-six species in all.

Many of the engravings of the former edition have been discarded and replaced by better. About fifty are from Brehm's Thierleben, near as many more from Dixon's Rural Bird Life, a few from the Proceedings of the Zoölogical Society of London, and from D. G. Elliot's Birds of America, about fifty from drawings by Mr. Edwin Shepherd, and many from those made by the author. About thirty anatomical drawings were furnished by Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, and Mr. R. Ridgway and Mr. H. W. Elliot have given others.—*W. N. L.*

MANUAL OF THE MOSSES OF NORTH AMERICA.[1]—For many years those botanists who have not been content to study flowering plants alone have been looking for a good manual of the mosses of the country. The little work by Sullivant which was bound in with one of the editions of Gray's Manual had long since not only gone out of print and become difficult to procure,

[1] *Manual of the Mosses of North America.* By Leo Lesquereux and Thomas P. James, with six plates illustrating the Genera. Boston: S. E. Cassino & Company, 1884. 8vo, pp. VI, 447, 6 pl.

but it had also become largely obsolete. When, therefore, it became understood some years ago that Sullivant and Lesquereux were at work on such a manual, there was an expression of general satisfaction. But Sullivant passed away, and his colleague was stricken with partial blindness. After an interval the work was resumed by Lesquereux, aided by Thomas P. James; but two years ago death again left the former to go on alone. Again the aged worker sought a helper, and found it in Mr. Watson of the Harvard Botanic Gardens, with whose assistance the present volume has been brought out.

We have examined it with much care, and have been pleased throughout. The treatment appears to us to be quite satisfactory, the descriptions being unusually full and clear. The keys are ample and well arranged, and these, with the plates (five from the old work of Sullivant), will enable almost any one to determine the classification of any moss.

The mosses are here considered to constitute a class including three orders, viz: Sphagnaceæ (the peat-mosses), Andreæaceæ (the schizocarpous mosses) and Bryaceæ (the true mosses). The Phascaceæ are considered as forming a tribe (the lowest) of the Bryaceæ. This is, in our opinion, an error. Their indehiscent capsules and minute size ought to entitle them to ordinal rank as much as the Andreæaceæ. Bryaceæ, moreover, are arranged in three series, viz: Acrocarpi, Cladocarpi and Pleurocarpi, and these include, all told, twenty-three tribes. The last of these tribes, Hypneæ, includes the single genus Hypnum, which is represented by 195 species distributed among twenty-eight subgenera. There are, all told, about 900 species of mosses described in this manual, which is more than double the number treated in Sullivant's little work. In the words of the surviving author it "is believed to include descriptions of all the species of mosses that are as yet known to occur in the North American continent within the limits of the United States and northward."
—*C. E. B.*

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

*Amer. Assoc.*—Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, thirty-second meeting, held at Minneapolis, Aug., 1883. Salem, 1884. From the Amer. Assoc.

*Hyatt, Alph.*—Fossil Cephalopoda in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy. Ext. Proc. Amer. Assoc., Aug., 1883.

——The larval theory of the origin of Cellular Tissue. Ext. American Naturalist, May, 1884. Both from the author.

*True, F. W.*—Catalogue of the aquatic mammals exhibited by the United States National Museum. Washington, 1884. From the author.

*Nat. Acad. of Sciences.*—Report of the National Academy of Sciences for 1883. Washington, 1884.

——Constitution and membership. July 10, 1884. From the National Academy.

*Gurley, Wm. F. E.*—New Carboniferous fossils. Bulletin No. 2, Feb., 1884. From the author.